

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1014

5 By: Representative Watson  
6 By: Senator K. Hammer  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE TRAINING AND  
10 INSTRUCTION OF AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR  
11 COUNTY CORONERS; TO ALLOW FOR A COUNTY CORONER TO  
12 RECEIVE ONLINE TRAINING; TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF  
13 APPROVED MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION TRAINING  
14 COURSES THAT MEET THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR  
15 CORONERS; TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WITH A FELONY  
16 CONVICTION IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE A DEPUTY CORONER;  
17 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

21 TO ALLOW ONLINE TRAINING FOR COUNTY  
22 CORONERS; TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL  
23 TRAINING COURSES FOR COUNTY CORONERS; AND  
24 TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WITH A FELONY  
25 CONVICTION IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE A DEPUTY  
26 CORONER.  
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29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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31 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-14-1212(a), concerning coroner  
32 medicolegal death investigation training and salary adjustment authorization  
33 for certified county coroners, is amended to read as follows:

34 (a) As used in this section, "certified county coroner" means a county  
35 coroner who has obtained a certificate of satisfactory participation and  
36 completion of medicolegal death investigation training from the Arkansas



1 Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training under § 14-15-308 or a  
 2 certificate in medicolegal death investigation from an agency approved by the  
 3 American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.

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 5 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-15-308 is amended to read as follows:

6 14-15-308. Training and instruction - Eligibility of deputy coroner.

7 (a) The Division of Law Enforcement Standards and Training, in  
 8 coordination with the Department of Health, shall establish a training  
 9 curriculum for medicolegal death investigators, coroners, and deputy coroners  
 10 in Arkansas that consists of no less than sixteen (16) hours nor more than  
 11 forty (40) hours of instruction, including without limitation courses on:

12 (1) Medicolegal death investigation leading to certification as  
 13 a medicolegal death investigator;

14 (2) Scene investigation;

15 (3) Body recovery;

16 (4) Safety;

17 (5) Statutes and rules;

18 (6) Documentation and reporting;

19 (7) Communication and interviewing; and

20 (8) Proper completion of a death certificate and assignment of  
 21 cause of death.

22 (b) The division shall:

23 (1) Issue a certificate of satisfactory participation and  
 24 completion to a coroner, deputy coroner, or medicolegal death investigator  
 25 who completes ~~the~~ an instructional program required under subsection (a) of  
 26 this section; and

27 (2)(A) Administer the funds for the payment and reimbursement  
 28 for materials, speakers, mileage, lodging, meals, the cost of the  
 29 certificate, and training equipment that are in addition to compensation  
 30 allowed under §§ 14-14-1203, 14-14-1204, and 14-14-1206.

31 (B) The division may receive funding for coroner training  
 32 through grants-in-aid, donations, and the County Coroners Continuing  
 33 Education Fund.

34 (c) The division: ~~shall~~

35 (1) Shall provide death investigation training:

36 ~~(1)(A)~~ Free of charge to a law enforcement officer, a

1 state death investigator, and an employee of the State Crime Laboratory; and  
 2 ~~(2)(B)~~ For a fee under a memorandum of understanding  
 3 between the division and the Arkansas Coroner’s Association to coroners and  
 4 deputy coroners; and

5 (2) May provide death investigation training remotely through an  
 6 online program.

7 (d)(1)(A) Within one (1) year of beginning employment as a deputy  
 8 coroner, a person employed as a deputy coroner after January 1, 2021, shall  
 9 complete; ~~the~~

10 (i) The training required under this section and  
 11 obtain a certificate under subdivision (b)(1) of this section; or

12 (ii) A training course in medicolegal death  
 13 investigation that meets the educational requirements of the American Board  
 14 of Medicolegal Death Investigations and present a certificate in medicolegal  
 15 death investigation from an agency approved by the American Board of  
 16 Medicolegal Death Investigators.

17 (B) A deputy coroner under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this  
 18 section who does not comply with this subsection shall not continue  
 19 employment or activity as a deputy coroner, including without limitation  
 20 signing death certificates or assisting in death investigations.

21 (2) Within one (1) year of the date of employment of a deputy  
 22 coroner, the coroner shall provide the county judge with the deputy  
 23 coroner’s:

- 24 (A) Name;
- 25 (B) Address;
- 26 (C) Starting date of employment; and
- 27 (D) Copy of the certificate under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of

28 this section.

29 (e) A person is not eligible to be a deputy coroner if the person has  
 30 pleaded guilty or nolo contendere or has been found guilty of a felony even  
 31 if the felony conviction has been sealed, expunged, or pardoned.

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